



SUMMARIZED MINUTES
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE

**Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
December 14, 2015**

**Civic Center Library Board of Directors Conference Room
Administration - Level 2
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: James Campbell, Chair
Ragan Grossman, Vice-Chair
Laurie Coe, Commissioner (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)
Andrew Song, Commissioner
Ricoh Danielson, Commissioner
Joseph Ettinger, Commissioner
Daria Lohman, Commissioner

STAFF: Sharon Cini

Members present as noted above

1. Approval of minutes from the November 9, 2015 meeting

COMMISSIONER ETTINGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2015 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LOHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER COE WAS NOT YET PRESENT.

2. Public Comment

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

3. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding Civil Dialogue event "Interfaith Civil Dialogue" on January 27, 2016

Chair Campbell reviewed topics discussed during the "Interfaith Civil Dialogue" Planning Committed meeting. At this point, five panel members have accepted the invitation to participate. The Commission briefly reviewed the list of panelists; discussed challenges some members have had in securing speakers representing their assigned religion; the possibility of a key speaker and alternate panel members who could be invited; marketing; community partners; and the key points of the introductions to be given by Mayor Lane and Chair Campbell. Chair Campbell suggested that each Commissioner be armed with questions for panel members that can spark discussion as needed.

Ms. Cini noted that the deadline for panelists is next week so the City can draft the press release before the end of the year.

Vice-Chair Grossman agreed to divide the list of Community Partners and Arizona Interfaith Community members and assign each Commissioner to a contact list of organizations to invite to the event.

4. Presentation and discussion regarding City Council's November 17, 2015 direction to staff regarding public outreach for a nondiscrimination ordinance

Ms. Cini said that the City Manager and the City Attorney's have put together a list of elements based on the City Council work study discussion that could be included in a non-discrimination ordinance. Council is reviewing the document and has the ability to make modifications as desired. Once Council is finished reviewing the document, a three-month public outreach will be conducted that will include publication in utility bill inserts, City newsletters, and a webpage that will outline points of the ordinance and offer an opportunity for citizens to provide input. Ms. Cini noted that staff will be available to attend community meetings upon request and that all comments received will be compiled and made available to the public before the non-discrimination ordinance is considered for adoption by City Council.

Discussion ensued about the importance of involving not only businesses, but also reaching out to residents about the availability of the draft ordinance information. Concern was expressed about the possible negative impact the ordinance could have on small businesses. Commissioner Lohman noted that City Council discussed making some exceptions and possibly excluding small businesses.

5. Presentation, discussion and recommendation regarding room location for upcoming Human Relations Commission meetings

Discussion ensued regarding the meeting room location. Commissioners acknowledged the importance of the meetings being televised as a tool for drawing attention to current issues, but felt that the Commission is able to accomplish more in a more informal setting.

It was the consensus of the Commission that future meetings will alternate between the Kiva Forum and the Kiva Conference Room depending whether presenters are agendized or a large number of public speakers are expected.

6. Staff updates regarding upcoming diversity events and activities

Ms. Cini noted that she and several staff and Commissioners attended Human Rights Day.

Ms. Cini has conducted three diversity Inclusion Framework classes to a total of 167 attendees since the November HRC meeting. The class is mandatory for employees and she hopes to complete the series by May or June. Eventually a computer-based training refresher will be created. The class focuses on defining diversity and inclusion and recognizing differences and uniqueness that everyone has and seeing them as strengths. The goal is to expand diversity and inclusion in the workplace, train the workforce to work respectfully and inclusively, and demonstrate the City's commitment to meet the diversity needs of the community.

Ms. Cini invited Commission members to attend the Penjamo Yaqui Community's Christmas event on Thursday, December 17th.

The Regional Unity Walk is scheduled on January 30th and, at the request of Mesa and Chandler, will be a candlelight walk this year.

7. Report from the Chair

Chair Campbell said that he had a meeting with Mayor Lane and discussed the Mayor's participation at the Interfaith Civil Dialogue and how the Commission and the City can work together for the betterment of the community.

Ms. Cini said that as the date gets closer she will let the Commission know if the City is buying a table or individual seats for the MLK Dinner and if there are any extra tickets for spouses to attend.

8. Commissioner Items

Commissioner Ettinger distributed copies of an article that appeared in the Scottsdale Independent on November 18th regarding Senator Cruz' comments about the LGBT Community and asking how the community can protect the safety of LGBT individuals. Commissioner Ettinger stressed the importance of the City creating protections for the LGBT community.

Commissioner Lohman suggested that the biggest impacts can be achieved in the schools. She noted that she attended Scottsdale Leadership Luncheon on Friday.

Ms. Cini undertook to agendize a discussion about inclusion activities in Scottsdale schools.

Commissioner Lohman attended Human Rights Day. She commented about Vietnamese children with American parents being brought over, noting that many people from foreign countries do integrate well into society.

Vice-Chair Grossman updated the Commission on the planning process for Scottsdale Center for Contemporary Arts' "Out at SMOCA" event scheduled for March.

Commissioner Coe said she looks forward to being involved with the HRC activities that are coming up in the New Year.

Commissioner Song noted that he was unable to attend, but got reports that the Arizona American Asian Association Festival was highly successful. He suggested that the HRC should look into what ways it can be more involved and help more next year. He noted that he attended the Scottsdale Leadership Luncheon. He has an appointment to meet with Councilman Smith on Friday to talk about HRC activities.

9. Discussion regarding the draft agenda for the next meeting, and dates, times and topics for upcoming meetings

Commissioner Song requested that a discussion be agendaized to talk about reevaluating partnerships and what budget authority HRC has in making partnership decisions.

Chair Campbell thanked Ms. Cini for her hard work throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz